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642 family;

n) Labor legislation; legislation concerning marriage and the

o) Direction of public health;

p) Direction of social maintenance;

q) Direction of elementary, secondary and higher education;

r) Direction of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of the Lithuanian SSR, and administration of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of all-Republican importance;

s) Direction and organization of physical culture and sports;

t) Organization of the judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

u) Granting the rights of citizenship of the Lithuanian SSR;

v) Amnesty and pardon of citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

w) Establishment of the representation of the Lithuanian SSR in international relations;

x) Organization of the military formations of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

646 Art. 20. The highest organ of state power in the Lithuanian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 21. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Lithuanian SSR voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 15,000 of the population.

Art. 22. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Lithuanian SSR in accordance with articles 13 and 19 of the Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR, in so far as they do not by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Lithuanian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, and the Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 23. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 24. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR by a simple majority vote.

643 Art. 25. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are published in the Lithuanian and Russian languages over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and two Vice-Chairmen.

Art. 27. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

643 646 Art. 28. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR twice a year.

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643 644 Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and eleven members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 30. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for all its activities.

643 Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR;

b) Issues decrees;

c) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Lithuanian SSR in operation;

d) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

e) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, and likewise decisions and orders of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies, if they do not conform to law;

f) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR;

g) Confers titles of honour of the Lithuanian SSR;

h) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

i) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Lithuanian SSR to foreign states;

j) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

644 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR decides whether to recognise the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit in any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

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643 Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of
644 the Lithuanian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR not later than three months after the elections.

645 [644] Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR appoints the Government of the Lithuanian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Lithuanian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 41. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of Republican and Union-Republican Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR and of other institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and directs the work of the authorised representatives of all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Lithuanian SSR, transmits it to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval and adopts measures to carry it out;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR and draws up the local budgets of the Lithuanian SSR; transmits the state budget to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval and adopts measures for the fulfilment of the state and local budgets of the Lithuanian SSR;

d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;